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AUTHOR	Cutts, Robert L.
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ABSTRACT

This book addresses issues of American-Japanese relations by focusing on how the Japanese educational system molds the Japanese people and culture. It identifies the vital determining issue in U.S.-Japan communications in the fact that all Japanese leaders emerge from the same educational treadmill or "cartels of the mind." This system, especially the five national and private universities from which almost all Japanese leaders emerge, is seen as teaching its students that they are inherently incapable of sharing their values, civic or personal, with those of any other civilization. The book suggests that education is one component of the overall Japanese system in which training, knowledge, self-discipline, and obedience are there to support the glory and power of the nation. The educational system is also seen as being fundamentally unchanged since the Meiji empire, which results in a dangerous nationalist elitism. The main points are illustrated with quotes from interviews as well as by anecdotes. (Individual chapters contain reference notes.) (DB)

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